



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Protecting nature for future generations



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About: The Couchiching Conservancy is a charitable, non-profit land trust dedicated to protecting nature for future generations. Our mission is to care for the lands entrusted to us and to help others protect the land they love in the Couchiching region. We create nature reserves for future generations by acquiring ecologically important properties and/or interests in properties. We have achieved our success through the work of our dedicated and growing team of donors, volunteers and supporters, and collaboration with other organizations.

Mission: Protecting nature for future generations.

Vision: We envision a mosaic of inter-connected wild spaces protected sufficiently to ensure the Couchiching-Severn region retains, nourishes and enhances its remaining natural riches through a changed relationship with the land in keeping with our shared principles. Our relationship with the land is built on respect, responsibility and reciprocity toward the earth.

Goals:

- Preserve, Protect
- Restore and Improve
- Encourage and Foster Environmental Awareness
- Acquire, Maintain and Preserve Lands
- Promote and Undertake Research

Pictured: Canadian Swallowtail. Kids at Grant's Woods Nature Reserve. Acoustic Monitoring devices help us record frog data. Great Blue Heron (C. Curran).



Executive Director & President's Message



The winds of global change are blowing hard as we write this, but the Couchiching Conservancy remains a beacon of stability and hope in our community. Everyone involved can be rightfully proud of all we've accomplished for the future security of this region over the past 31 years.

Record-high donations and investment returns in 2024 were an important part of this year's success story. These funds will propel us into 2025 in a strong financial position, ensuring we can continue to protect new landscapes, and expand our reach into the community.

The loss of Ron Reid this December, our most influential founder and dear friend, was devastating. It sent ripples across the Ontario conservation community and we paused to comfort each other and reflect on his legacy. Donations to the Heartwood Fund poured in.

Those we have lost remind us to make room at the table for today's youth. As a result of the Angela Rehorn Commemorative Project, over 200 youth joined us this

year to volunteer in the "Release the Wild" and "Wildlife on Roads" program. We also started our first Youth Stewardship Council to nurture the next generation of conservation leaders.

The centrefold of this report, our map, is at the core of everything we do. It tells the story of what's protected, and what's left to protect. This year we made plans to expand our reach into all five priority corridors including Minesing to Matchedash, Bass Lake, and Matchedash. Our adventurous biologist, Toby Rowland, has taken on an exciting project to traverse each corridor in order to understand them better. He completed Phase I this fall and wow, did we learn things.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the work through the challenges and successes of 2024. We look forward to continuing to sustain and grow the special relationships we have with our community - you are essential to our success.

Dorthea Hangaard
Executive Director

Kathy Hunt
President

Staff:

Aiesha Aggarwal
Courtney Baker
Tanya Clark
Meghan Duell
Megan Greenwood
Dorthea Hangaard
Alysha Henry
Toby Rowland
Jocelyn Trudell
Meg Whitton

Staff we said goodbye to this year:

Brandon Guoth
Madeleine Fournier
Danielle Houston

Contractors & Summer Staff:

Mark Bisset
Meagan Coughlin
Jazmin Gall
Terry-Lynn Hazlett
Ginny Moore
Ron Reid
Jen Willoughby

Board of Directors:

Jane Bonsteel
Jack Booth
Susan Crowe
Neil Gray
Kathy Hunt
Morris Ilyniak
Dale Leadbeater
Janet Machan
Bob Sullivan

Councils & Committees:

Advisory
Development
Past Presidents
Passport to Nature
Policy Committee
Investment Committee
Indigenous Reconciliation
Personnel Committee

Impact



PROTECTED PLACES

14,935-acres protected thanks to supporters & volunteers.



5,090 HOURS

contributed by 294 volunteers to various projects & programs.



50 LEGACY GIFTS

The Heartwood Fund surpassed \$3.3 million in pledges & contributions.



500+ PEOPLE Engaged through the Passport to Nature program.



COMMUNITY SCIENCE

14 programs on 45 reserves & managed sites with 279 volunteers.



200+ YOUTH

Involved in programming, who helped remove 735 feet of fencing to reduce barriers for wildlife movement.



Pictured: Members of Carden Challenge team "Carden Owls". Jazmin Gall (summer staff), volunteers Shirley Moorman and Jane Brasher water monitor training Grant's Woods Nature Reserve. Gillian and her greyhounds explore the trails at Grant's Woods Nature Reserve during the Passport to Nature Discover Trails Day.



60 SPECIES

at risk that we monitor and track in our region.



762 MILKWEED

PLANTS

inspected for eggs, caterpillars and butterflies.



1,225 POUNDS

of invasive plant material removed from the nature reserves.



241 SUBMISSIONS

to the Natural Heritage Information Center to advance understanding of biodiversity, natural heritage and species conservation in Ontario.



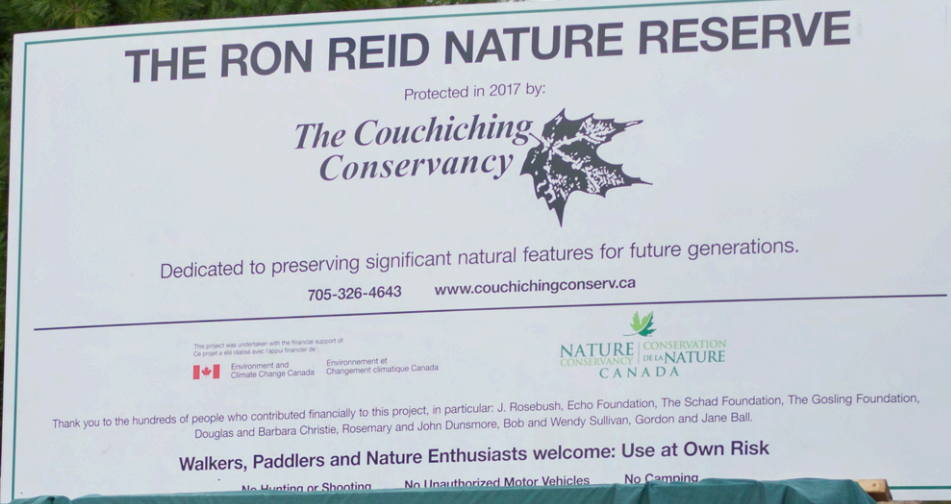
75% ENROLLED

Conservancy nature reserves are enrolled in the Conservation Land tax Incentive Program.



Pictured: Nature Reserve boundary signs at the Mitchell Bruce Nature Reserve. Waubgeshig Rice was our guest speaker at our Annual General Meeting. We hosted an Orillia Chamber of Commerce Business After Five event at Scout Valley, a conservation easement we hold with the City of Orillia. Passport to Nature Wildflower Photography at Cameron Ranch Nature Reserve, a part of Carden Alvar Provincial Park.

Hellos and Goodbyes



Staff Changes

We had a number of changes this year, and ended the year with 10 full-time staff to lead us into 2025.

With Meghan Duell on maternity leave, Danielle Houston was hired to fill a portion of her work. Courtney Baker shifted her role to support the Stewardship team. In August, we hired Meg Whitton to be the new “voice” at our front desk after 18 years in radio.

Brandon Guoth’s time with us as Reserve Steward came to an end, and we hired Megan Greenwood to replace him.

Also in August, Madeleine Fournier left her role as Engagement Organizer to go back to school, and we welcomed Jocelyn Trudell in her place.

Truly a year of hellos and goodbyes.



Remembering Ron Reid

On December 15, we lost one of our founders, our first Executive Director, and our friend, Ron Reid. He died on the anniversary of the nature reserve named in his honour seven years ago, with his family by his side.

Ron leaves a legacy of accomplishments, including a leading role in the protection of over 14,000 acres of land in Couchiching-Severn. “Many people in our region will never realize the profound impact Ron has had on their quality of life,” said current Executive Director Dorthea Hangaard, “nevertheless, all will benefit from his foresight in helping to establish a land trust that protects our land, water, forests, and grasslands for generations to come.”

His contributions to conservation go beyond our region. In the early 1990s, Ron returned from a rally in the US ready to build a land trust movement in Ontario. Not only did he co-found The Couchiching Conservancy, he helped create an organization that would foster the growth of land trusts throughout the province. The Ontario Land Trust Alliance now includes 51 member-organizations who collectively protect 187,000 acres of land in Ontario.

Ron had a significant impact on nature near and far. We hope you will visit our website and read the full article written to honour him.

Pictured: Ron Reid at the unveiling of the nature reserve named in his honour. The staff! Back row L-R - Jocelyn Trudell, Alysha Henry, Meghan Duell, Courtney Baker, Megan Greenwood, Toby Rowland. Front row L-R - Aiesha Aggarwal, Tanya Clark, Dorthea Hangaard, Meg Whitton.

Corridors of Connected Wilderness

“In order to understand the ecological connectivity of a landscape, you have to learn to perceive it from the perspectives of the species that use it.

- Toby Rowland, Biologist

Minesing to Matchedash

Our staff Biologist, Toby, used an on the ground approach through Minesing to Matchedash with a three day trek by foot and kayak, with key questions in mind: how do wildlife navigate this region? What are the barriers and hazards? What is the quality of the natural areas?

The route included anchor points such as Little Lake, Simcoe County Forests and Copeland Forest, along with connections between them (without trespassing). The route factored in major roads and highways, as these are barriers to a true wildlife corridor.

The findings revealed a mosaic of natural spaces disrupted by human impact: fences, roads, noise pollution, and off-leash dogs. While expected challenges were encountered like crossing Highway 400, the constant noise and the unexpected presence of dirt bikes racing through the woods were particularly striking. Aerial views from a drone provided a new perspective, highlighting the true fragmentation of these spaces that originally seemed to be suitable habitat for wildlife.

This experience emphasized the critical need to reassess our infrastructure and behaviors. Small changes, like installing wildlife-friendly culverts and planting native species, can significantly enhance connectivity.

This trek will inform conservation opportunities and efforts in the future. A video documentary was a key part of this effort as well, which can be viewed on our website and YouTube channel.

Pictured: Biologist Toby Rowland in his kayak in the Minesing to Matchedash region.

Agnew-Melnyk Nature Reserve

 Hogg Creek watershed  39.5-acres / 15.9-hectares  2004, 2024

This property contains a mix of habitats, from old meadows to conifer swamp to a section of Hogg Creek. This year the easement (signed in 2004) became the Agnew-Melnyk Nature Reserve thanks to the family's dedication to conservation. By transferring their easement to a 'fee simple' or owned property they have provided the highest level of protection possible for their land and water forever.

The reserve neighbours Huronia Conservancy's Hogg Creek Wetland making it a foothold to build on in our Minesing to Matchedash corridor.

This is the second Conservancy easement to become a fee simple nature reserve. Thank you Sandy and Lynne!

“Sandy Agnew and Lynne Melnyk are exemplary land stewards who gifted the Conservancy with a 40-acre easement in Oro-Medonte in 2004. This year they increased protection of these lands to the highest extent possible through a fee simple donation. Thank-you for your heartfelt and generous donation of the Agnew-Melnyk Nature Reserve, Sandy and Lynne!

- Dorthea Hangaard, Executive Director

Taking Care of the Land



The Couchiching Conservancy now manages 50 properties. Each year we feature one nature reserve, and dig into the details of stewardship efforts, community science with volunteers and other events that take place at that property.


Caring For The Deverell-Morton Nature Reserve


On August 31, 2023, we closed on what is now known as the Deverell-Morton Nature Reserve. There are many steps to get to this point, and once 'signed, sealed and delivered', the work of caring for the land begins.

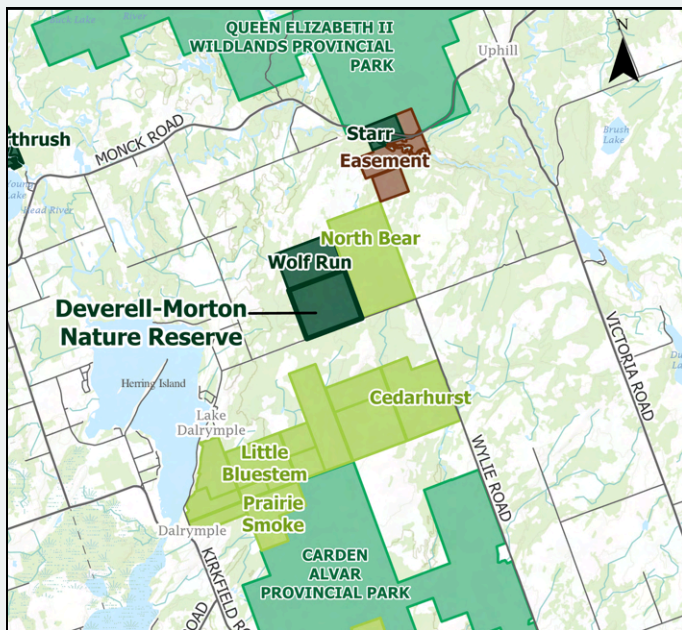
The reserve neighbours the Wolf Run Alvar Nature Reserve (Couchiching Conservancy) and North Bear Alvar Nature Reserve (The Nature Conservancy of Canada). Together these properties are an important corridor that many species call home. Since taking ownership of the property, we have added wildlife friendly split rail fencing along the roadside, a metal gate to discourage trespassing from recreational vehicles, and a new property sign. At the unveiling in July, many family members and friends came to share stories about the property and express their excitement to see it protected. The property sign serves as a tribute to the family and informs visitors that the land is protected.

Within the interior of the property, the stewardship team has worked hard to remove invasive plants including Scots Pine and Buckthorn. Invasive species volunteer events were hosted this year by the summer staff with the goal to help remove Scots Pine saplings. The stewardship team has also completed Ecological Land Classification studies and the information gathered has given us a better understanding of the ecology that is present. Other events held at Deverell-Morton included the Passport to Nature Grassland Flora Walk, led by botanist, ecologist and Board member Dale Leadbeater. During the walk, Dale shared knowledge of the history, geography and the geology of the area while walkers enjoyed the flora of the property.

Pictured: Wildlife friendly split rail fencing on the Deverell-Morton Nature Reserve.

 Deverell-Morton Nature Reserve

 417-acres / 169 hectares



 Couchiching Conservancy - Nature Reserve	 Nature Conservancy of Canada Nature Reserve / Easement
 Couchiching Conservancy - Easement	 Provincial Park

Quick Facts:

- Four stewardship / community science projects;
- 12 volunteers;
- 75 volunteer hours dedicated to this reserve;
- High quality alvar;
- The property includes a willow thicket swamp which connects Deverells Creek to the Head River and Lake Dalrymple.



Learn about Ecological Land Classification and invasive species such as Scots Pine on our website. Use the search feature!

Stewarding The Land

With 50 nature reserves to steward, caring for each nature reserve is always full of excitement, but some of the challenges we have faced this year have been less exciting, such as trespassing and dumping.

Trespass by ATVs has a significant impact on the land and species who live there. By putting up boundary signage and adding wildlife friendly fencing or gates in suitable areas, we can discourage these activities.

Dumping of items like appliances and bags of household waste is not only discouraging, it also costs the staff valuable time and Conservancy money.

Invasive Species

Invasive plants can outcompete native plants causing loss of species, habitat, and biodiversity. Less obvious social and economic impacts such as decreased crop yields, as invasive plants can act as hosts to crop pests. Some are noxious enough to cause safety concerns for hikers, like Giant Hogweed. Some, like Dog-Strangling Vine, contribute to the loss of species at risk like Monarch butterflies by mimicking their proper host plants for foraging and breeding. We held invasive species control, mapping, monitoring events and education across our nature reserves in 2024.



Invasive plants we target included: Scots Pine, Dog-strangling Vine, Phragmites, Buckthorn, Garlic Mustard, Giant Hogweed, Japanese knotweed, and Purple Loosestrife. We worked on 18 nature reserves and easements, covering over 3,600 hectares with the help of volunteers and partners like Nature Conservancy of Canada and Ontario Parks. Visit our website to learn more about invasive species.

Pictured: Meg Greenwood, Reserve Steward, built the sign for the Deverell-Morton Nature Reserve with volunteers. Beech Leaf Disease Event in partnership with Invasive Species Centre. Greg Jaski and Don Trumble at Turnbull Ranch Nature Reserve picking Dog-Strangling Vine pods.





Conservation Research

Reptile Monitoring

This program shifted from surveying multiple nature reserves, to focusing on a select few for more detailed studies. This change enables us to target elusive, at-risk species that are challenging to detect without concentrated efforts. Due to the vulnerability of these species to poaching, we cannot disclose the specific nature reserves or certain species monitored. Using data from previous years, we prioritized key species and selected promising locations for targeted surveys. These surveys involve full-day fieldwork, where our team explores wetlands and forests along transects (a path that is used to make observations and measurements across a landscape). They search for rare species in their natural habitats. We have already seen positive results from this new strategy.

Drone Use

Staff began using a drone for more efficient and comprehensive monitoring. It has been used for mapping invasive species, checking boundaries, assessing encroachments, exploring potential acquisitions, and capturing media for use in communications. All drone operations fit within our drone policy and are conducted by a licensed operator, with wildlife behavior closely monitored to minimize disturbance, and flights are discontinued if necessary to ensure minimal impact.

Pictured: Danielle Houston, Toby Rowland and volunteers Morah Fenning and Paul Robinson completed a Reptile Monitoring Survey. A drone was used during this survey to assist with monitoring.

Rainfall And Frogs

It was a record-breaking year for rainfall, and our most hard-hit nature reserve was the 20-acre Grant Wetland Nature Reserve in Orillia.

The combination of residential development pressure and 18 days of rain meant a herculean effort was required by staff to maintain neighbourhood harmony. This wetland filters and slows water on its way to Lake Couchiching. However, it couldn't function as normal given the volume of rain.

This is a vision of things to come and why we need nature-based climate solutions like conservation. With seventy percent of wetlands lost to sprawl, this remaining pocket of habitat is being pushed beyond its limit.

The rain and warm weather also impacted frogs. Temperatures in Orillia were above freezing on 12 different days, earlier than usual. Volunteer frog monitors reported that Wood frogs and Western Chorus frogs, which rely on environmental cues to time their mating season, began calling earlier than in any of the past seven years of the monitoring program.



“The Orillia weather station recorded the highest rainfall for April since records began in 1994, (Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, 2025). April 2024 also saw the most days of "heavy" rainfall (over 10 mm per day).”



Youth Led Conservation

Over 200 young people were empowered through our Angela Rehorn Commemorative Project to take an active role in conservation. Students explored real-world conservation efforts and learned how they could make a difference on the land.

We hosted six hands-on workshops, nine classroom presentations and three field trips where youth engaged in meaningful stewardship activities. They removed old fencing to create open wildlife corridors, set up trail cameras to study how animals navigate barriers, and conducted wildlife on roads surveys to better understand how species are impacted by roads.

We also created our first Youth Council, a group of passionate young leaders who will help shape the future of the program. By working alongside conservation professionals, youth gained valuable knowledge, practical skills, and a deeper connection to nature. Together, we are inspiring the next generation of environmental leaders.

Our First Eco-Passage

In early 2024, we began planning and designing an eco-passage to help wildlife safely cross Monck Road at Whitney Wetland Nature Reserve, part of the provincially significant Mud Lake Wetland Complex. In collaboration with the County of Simcoe and engineers at Tatham Engineering, we developed a solution that utilizes an existing culvert beneath the road. By installing a terrestrial walkway inside the culvert and constructing exclusion fencing along both sides of the road, we are creating a safe, accessible route for animals—far better than the busy roadway above.

We broke ground in fall 2024, starting with trenching to bury portions of the 2,000-foot-long fence to prevent wildlife from digging underneath. Snow arrived before we could finish, but we'll be back in the spring to complete this critical project.

Beyond construction, communicating the importance of wildlife is crucial. By providing resources to decision-makers, we've influenced road infrastructure planning in Simcoe County, helping to integrate wildlife-friendly designs into future projects.

Pictured: Jordan Stanford helps with construction of the Eco Passage. Alysha Henry (staff) and volunteers Jessica Winchester and Patrick Jones during a wildlife on monitoring visit roads near the bridge at Whitney Wetland Nature Reserve. Piper Campbell and Patrick Jones holding fence they removed at Sweetwater Farm Nature Reserve.

212 youth between the ages of 15-30 were reached through the Angela Rehorn Commemorative Project.

They helped “release the wild” and removed 735 feet of old fencing to reduce barriers and hazards to wildlife movement.



Nature Reserves & Easements

14,935-acres

protected since 1993
(6,044-hectares)

57




nature reserves & easements

23.5km

of trails open to the public



Protected by:

The Couchiching Conservancy



-  Open to public with trails
-  Open to public without trails
-  Not open to public

Conservation Easement

Private land owners protecting land with help from the Couchiching Conservancy

-  Open to Public with trails
-  Not open to public

Ontario Parks

-  Open to public with trails
-  Not open to public




Nature Conservancy of Canada

-  Open to public with trails
-  Open to public without trails
-  Not open to public

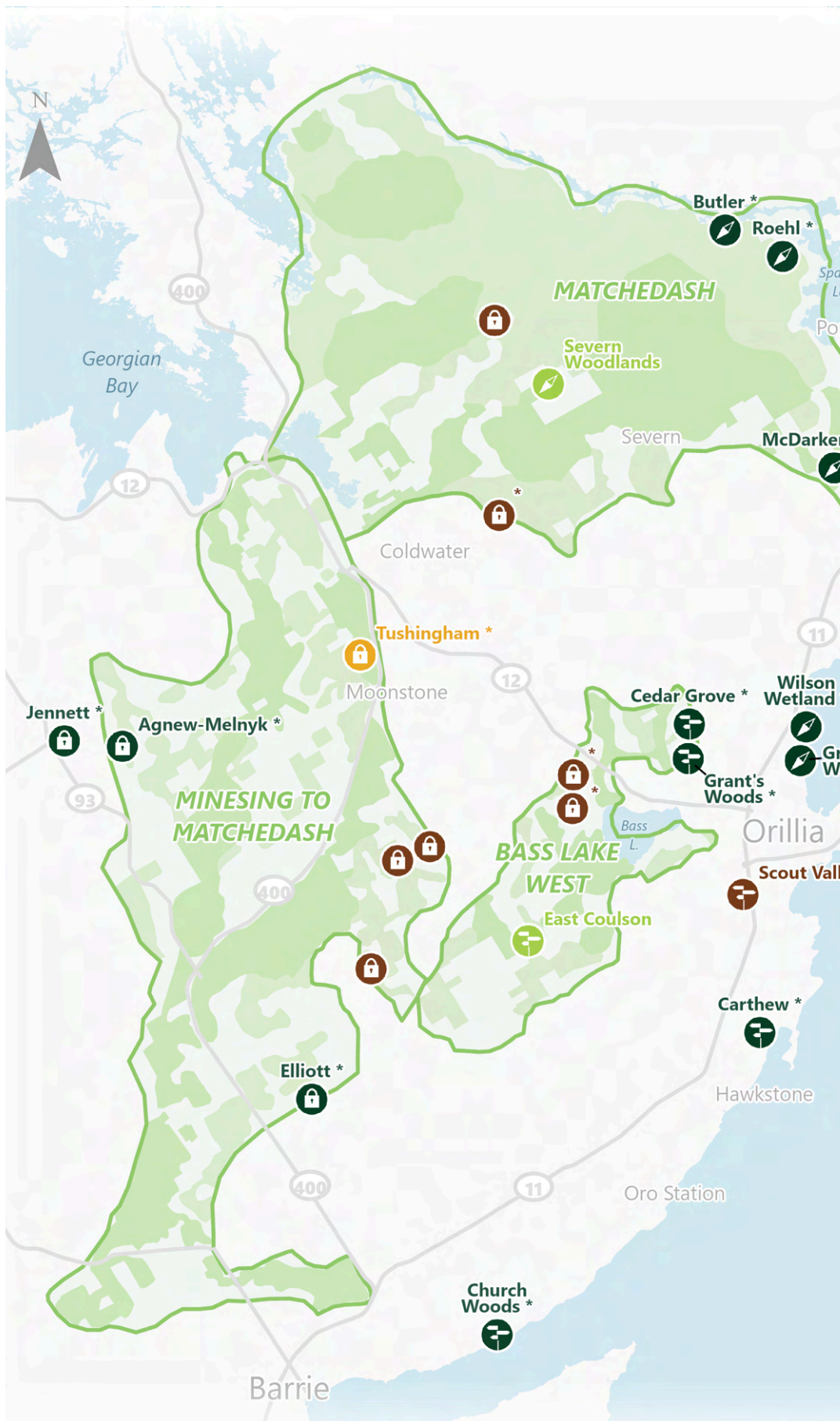
Ontario Heritage Trust

-  Not open to public

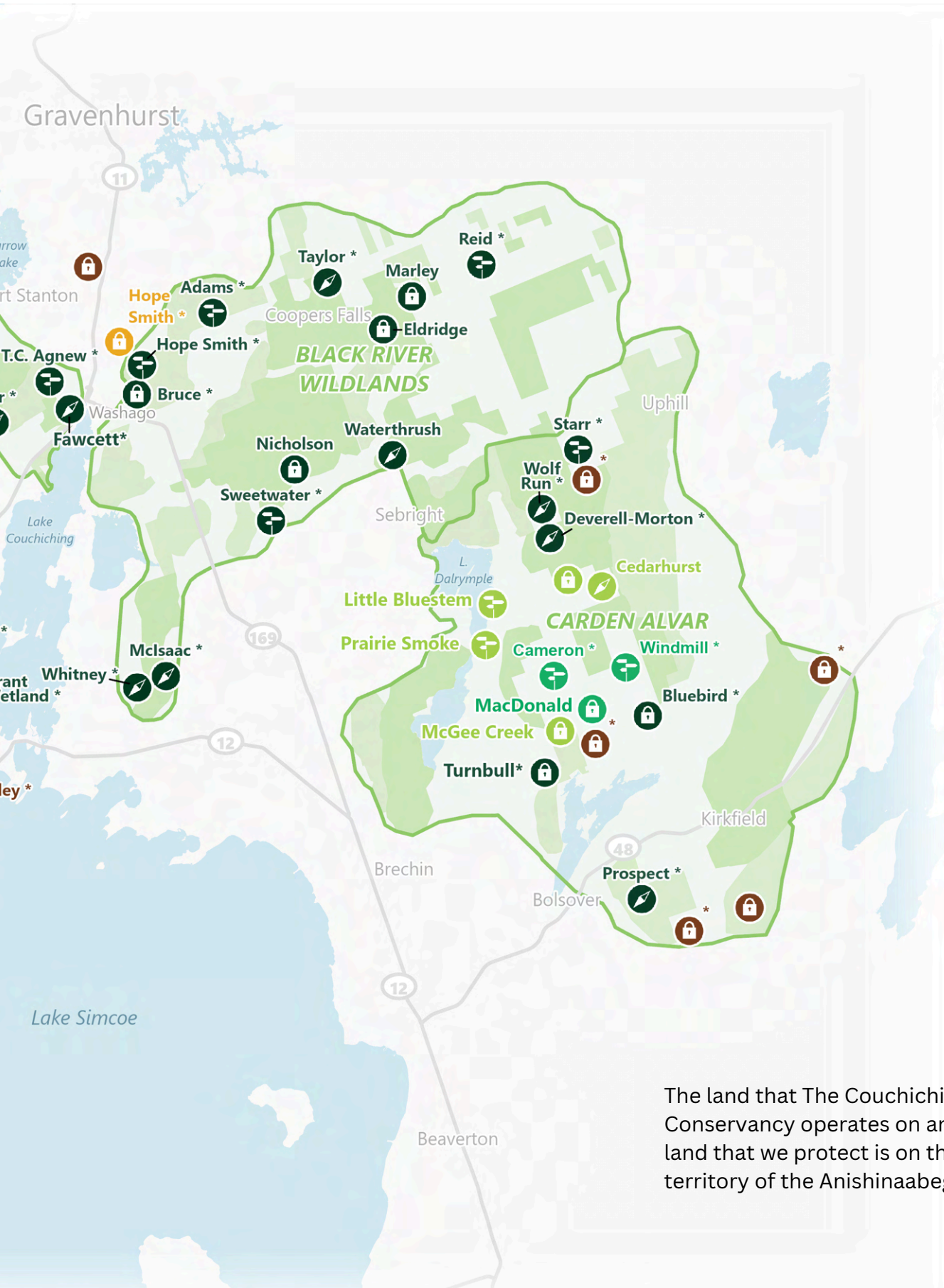
Areas of interest for conservation

-  Conservation Corridor
-  Priority 1 Zone
-  Priority 2 Zone

"*" Indicates nature reserves with Couchiching Conservancy Community Science/Stewardship teams in 2024.



Created by The Couchiching Conservancy, January 2025. Projected coordinate system NAD 1983 CSRS UTM 17N. Contains information licensed under the Open Government License. Digitized by Ron Reid and The Couchiching Conservancy and digitized by Kawartha Conservation (2020). Nature Reserve symbols designed by Finn Canadensis, HonkHonk Graphics. Contact for details.



The land that The Couchiching Conservancy operates on and the land that we protect is on the territory of the Anishinaabeg people.

Government Licence – Ontario); Priority areas and conservation corridors conceptualized by [unclear] Arts, This is an artistic rendering and is not meant for navigation or legal purposes.

In the Community



CARDEN CHALLENGE

90 participants raised over \$40,000 and counted 214 species in 24 hours.



PASSPORT TO NATURE

13 events & activities were made possible by 30+ volunteers who contributed 300+ hours of time. Sponsors contributed \$20,000+ to keep events free or low cost.

Events & Activities

We celebrated new milestones this year, with the 20th anniversary of the Carden Challenge, and 10th anniversary of the Passport to Nature program. Both continue to be an important part of connecting with the community and raising funds to power the Conservancy's work. Our sincere thanks to the many volunteers, sponsors and participants who make these activities and events possible.

We also hosted unveilings for the Cedar Grove Nature Reserve, Deverell-Morton Nature Reserve and Hancock Hermitage Easement.

In addition to our own events, we are grateful to the businesses and services clubs who supported our work through fundraising initiatives, such as the Rotary Club of Orillia Charity Car Auction, Blossom Plants & Goods, Marika Fox Decluttering, Eclectic Cafe & Catering and Danny Borzellino.

Many groups host events at our nature reserves, such as Orillia EarlyOn, Scouts Canada and Orillia Women's Newcomers.



Pictured: The participants of the Carden Challenge at the Jenkins home who host the recap dinner. Max McKenzie, Madeleine Fournier and Sheena Tolland during the Passport to Nature Pride event.



“My husband and I have always been passionate about the outdoors. However, after his life-changing accident, we found ourselves seeing the world through the lens of a wheelchair. It was a tough adjustment, and we often felt like we were missing out on the beauty of nature. That changed when I learned about a new accessible trail project at Grant’s Woods Nature Reserve. When I saw that, I instantly knew this organization truly understood the importance of making the outdoors accessible for everyone, regardless of their mobility. I wanted to be a part of that mission.

Since then, I’ve been volunteering in the office and with the invasive species removal team. I’ve learned so much about the different reserves, the wildlife, and the important work being done to protect species at risk. What’s even more special is that my husband has been able to access some of the trails, and we’ve been able to enjoy nature together again. Volunteering has truly become a highlight of my life, and I feel so grateful to contribute to an organization that protects our lands and respects every living thing.”

- Pam Paylor is a volunteer and member



AMBASSADORS & GRANT’S GREETERS
28 volunteers volunteered 170+ hours at Grant’s Woods Nature Reserve or at events, and talked to almost 1,000 people.

Art Donation

We were grateful to accept a collection of artwork from Mary Lou Kirby and her late husband Doug.

“Doug wanted the assets we worked hard for as partners for 43 years to benefit something worthwhile when all was said and done. Doug was not one for attending meetings and functions but he did consider the work of the Conservancy very important and wanted to support it with the donation of his beloved Batemans as well as our pledge through our wills for the Heartwood Fund.”

The pieces can be viewed on the walls of the office and may be auctioned off in the future to further support our work, as agreed to by Mary Lou.



Pictured: Tanya Clark, volunteer Pam Paylor, Michael Gordon from the Community Foundation of Orillia and Area and Kim Oxley from the County of Simcoe. Pam worked on a grant to be able to purchase an Automated External Defibrillator, now installed at The Couchiching Conservancy’s office. Charlie Paylor takes a closer look at the Fargo Truck at Grant’s Woods Nature Reserve. Inset, Mary Lou and Doug Kirby.

Volunteers



We are doing more for nature, together. Volunteers help us care for the nature reserves, put together mailings, monitor for Species at Risk, do maintenance...the list goes on and on. We are so grateful to all of the people listed here who volunteer their time.

Aiesha Aggarwal
 Sandy Agnew
 Bill Anderson
 Bill Anderson*
 Marion Aplin
 Kimberly Ariss
 Carole Audet
 Courtney Baker
 Stevie Baker, Stella & Gilda Minges
 Gordon & Jane Ball
 Jon Ball
 Scott Ballon
 Aileen Barclay
 Carolyn Beaumont
 Sharon Beebe
 Jess Benavides
 Ian Bender
 Eric Bennett
 Cathy Bernatavicius
 Joan Berndt
 Kevin & Mary Binsted
 Mark Bisset
 Stewart Blackwell
 Lorna Bolden
 Jane Bonsteel
 Jack Booth
 Janet Brandenburg
 Jane Brasher
 Holly Brown
 Michael Brown & Nancy Grepe
 Jim & Jude Brown
 Linda Buckland
 Melissa Bulgutch & Reid Bulgutch-Rosenblum
 Leah Burgan
 Kathy Callahan
 Perry Camisso
 Philip Careless
 Katy Catchpole

Anita Caven & Matthew Wilson
 John Challis
 Melody Chamberlain
 Beth Chapman
 Zhuo Chen
 Nancy Chong
 Douglas Christie
 Samantha Clapperton
 Tanya Clark
 Marilyn Clark
 Christine Coates
 John & Kathy Connor
 Amy Cooper
 Lorelei Cornish
 Alain & Carole May Cote
 Meagan Coughlin
 Trudy Coughlin
 David Cowl
 Susan Crowe
 Katherine Culbert
 Cameron Curran
 Tricia Currie & Larry Hrivnak
 Louise & Peter Dale
 Sue Deadman
 Julian Diener
 Elaine Donnelly
 Brenda & Dave Dorward
 Michael Drescher
 Jane Dimoff
 Pat Duncan
 Meghan Edwards & Thomas Kaethler
 Judith Eger & James Knowles
 Tina Elworthy
 Gilda Evelyn
 Heather Ewing
 Jennifer Fairey
 Morah Fenning
 Kristyn Ferguson

Mark Field
 Madeleine Fournier
 Mike Francis
 Evelyn Franktzke & Robert Williamson
 Pamela Fulford
 David Funnell
 Jazmin Gall
 Mary Sue Gamroth & Ed Konda
 Heather Gauldie
 David Giannunzio
 Kelly Gibson
 Mandy Gibson
 Lisa Gillette & Gary Peters
 Donna Godfrey
 Sarah Graham
 Ann & Neil Gray
 Rory Greenwood
 Megan Greenwood
 Steve Greidanus
 Alexander Grout
 Katie Grube
 Brandon Guoth & Nicole Rulff
 Haven Hache
 Deb Halbot
 Charleyne Hall
 Philip Hamilton
 Jim Hamilton
 Ron & Sharon Hancock
 Dorthea Hangaard
 Jeremy Hatt
 Emily Hawton
 Ruth Henderson
 Amanda Henderson
 Emily Henry
 Andrew Henry
 Sarah Hodgkiss
 Glen Hodgson
 Valerie Holt

David A. Homer
 Mitchell Horn
 W. Joseph Horne
 Kyra Howes
 Rebecca Howes
 Jordan Hultslander
 Jean Humphries
 Kathy Hunt
 Katrina Hunt
 Amy Huxtable & Gem Kyne
 Jennica Hwang
 Edina Illyes
 Morris Ilyniak
 Jean Iron
 Mourad Jabra
 Patrick Jackson
 Greg Jaski
 Jeramie Jenkins
 Justin Johnson
 Dr. Richard Johnston
 Jeff & Pat Jones
 Tricia Jones
 Sierra Katrian
 Ian Kay
 Andrew Keaveney
 Karen Kennedy
 Keira Knicely
 Karen Koornneef
 Dan Koscinski
 Glenn Kozak
 Julianne Kryla
 Karena Kyne
 Maryanne Labrash
 Jamie Laidlaw
 Cassy & Ryan Lamoureux
 Ellen Larsen
 Dale Leadbeater
 Astrid & Gabrielle Leicht
 Michelle Locke
 Wendy Lowry
 Hannah Lye

*yes, we have two volunteers named Bill Anderson!

Janet Machan
 Pam MacLachlan
 Ada Malmstrom
 Josh Mandell
 Jane & Jeff Marshall
 Sophie & Stan Mathewson
 Joanne Matte
 John Mayo
 Rowan & Shawn McClinchey
 Duncan McDonald
 Meghan McKay
 Kristi McKechnie & Don
 Scott
 Kathy McKechnie
 Max McKenzie
 Lucas McLennan & Amanda
 Porter
 Lois McSorley
 Derek McTavish
 Mary & Omer Mick
 Mark Miller
 Judy Mitchell-Wilson & Tom
 Wilson
 Rhiannon Monague
 Ginny Moore
 Shirley Moorman
 Kevin Moran
 Leo Moriarty
 Markelle Morphet
 Melissa Morrison
 Chase Moser & family
 Will Moser & family
 Barb Murkar
 Brian Murrant
 Lisa & Jim Neville
 Mike Norton
 Jodi Oscroft
 Rosamund Owen
 Matthew Palarchio
 Rob Palin
 Pam Paylor
 Clifford Perry
 Alex Peterson

Joni Pethick
 Heather Philip
 Jennifer Pierson
 Becky Plant & Toby
 Rowland
 Elizabeth Plant
 Margaret Pomeroy
 Jamie & Valerie Powell
 Joy Poyntz
 Nancy Prentice
 Bryn & Leslie Pressnail
 Mike Radonicich
 Nicole Ranville
 Mary Reed
 Roland Rehorn & Joan
 Vincent
 Ron Reid & Janet Grand
 Austin Rimmer
 Paul Robinson
 Nathalie Rockhill
 Barbara Rosebrugh
 Anne & Jamie Ross
 Aaron Rusak
 Lynn Russell
 Laura Ruttan
 Barbara Ryckman
 Eric Sayle
 Sam Sergeant
 Karl Schulz
 Kevin Shackleton
 Sleiman Shakkour
 Victoria Shelep
 Bill & Vicki Sherwood
 Catherine, Connor &
 Mariangela Sherwood
 Jim Shunn
 Gabriela Silvasan
 Rick Simpson
 Norm & Carol Sinclair
 Jane Sloley
 Alan Smale
 Colleen Smith
 Jane Smith



As an environmental student at Lakehead University, I wanted to gain more hands-on experience through fieldwork. Volunteering with the Couchiching Conservancy has helped me improve my plant and animal ID skills, gain experience in the field, and make connections through the conservancy. These experiences will help me when I pursue an environmental career!

- Emily Hawton is a volunteer (Snake Board Surveys, Youth Stewardship Program and Ecological Land Classification).

Laurie Stanford
 Robert Stavinga
 Merrill Stephen
 Mark Stevenson
 Christopher Stewart
 Debra Stewart
 James K. Stewart
 Lauren Storey
 Noella Storry
 Grant & Tim Stott
 Bob Sullivan
 Dagmar Teubner
 Isabelle Thiess
 Kent Thexton
 Courtney Thompson
 Adam & Shirley Thomson
 Ken Thomson
 Jade Tibbett
 Sheena Tolland
 Gloria Tozek
 Donna Tunstall
 Don Trumble
 Allan & Melanie Tuck

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 Josiah Vandenberg
 Leslie Varsava
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 Ellen Venus
 John Walinck
 Claire Walker
 Erin Wall
 Kimberly Wand
 Audrey Warren
 John Watson
 Rick Whitlock
 Leanore Wiancko
 Annika Wilcox
 Jen Willoughby
 Bruce & Jean Wilson
 Clemence Wong
 John Wright
 Kaye Zoller

Pictured pages 15 - 16: Volunteers and staff at the Carden Bird Blitz. Lauren Storey frog monitoring at the Ling Easement. Cliff Perry helps with trail clean up at Sedge Wren Marsh trail, a part of Windmill Ranch Nature Reserve.. Jane Smith is ready for the mosquitoes at Alexander Hope Smith Nature Reserve as she and teammate Karen Kennedy complete their frog monitoring. Toby Rowland (staff) and Emily Hawton check the snake boards at one of the easements.



Supporters



Our thanks to our supporters who power work to steward the nature reserves, preserve biodiversity, protect vital habitat for wildlife, ensure community can access nature, mitigate the effects of climate change, ensure clean air and water for all, and so much more.

Heartwood Fund, our legacy giving program:

Joy & John Ackert
Sandy Agnew & Lynne Melnyk
Courtney Baker
Gordon & Jane Ball
Homi & Linda Bam
Jane Bonsteel
Cameron & Linda Bigelow
Mark & Sandi Bisset
Philip Careless
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Isabelle & Gary Thiess
Adam & Shirley Thomson
Ken & Corinne Thomson
Joan Vincent & Roland Rehorn
Mary Walton-Ball

Eight anonymous pledges and contributions.

\$1,000+, a part of our Leaders Circle:

Accessibility Professionals
Heather & Alec Adams
Gordon & Jane Ball
Craig Barrett
Kevin & Mary Binsted
Sandi & Mark Bisset
Jane Bonsteel
Michael J Brown
Leah Burgan
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The Community Foundation Of Orillia The Dale Family Endowment
Michael & Norma Tangney
Gary & Isabelle Thiess
Adam & Shirley Thomson
Doug & Charon Varty
Joan Vincent & Roland Rehorn
David Warren
Brian Wicks
Michael Williams

\$150 - \$999:

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Candy & Steve Baker
Courtney Baker
Gregoire Balandras
Orillia Concert Band
Janet Barlow
Zoe Beamish
Bee By The Sea
Cathy Bernatavicius
Joan Berndt
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Kathy Connor
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David Holmes
Peter Holt
David A. & Bonnie Homer
Janet Houston
William Houston
Jennifer Howey
Jean Humphries



We decided to donate to the Heartwood Fund, in memory of our daughter Angela Rehorn. She had a degree in Marine Biology and Sustainability. In her short time with the Conservancy, she quickly realized she had found people who, like herself were passionate about wildlife and animal habitats. We remember her excitement after her first meeting with Dorthea.

Angela was a member of the Canadian Conservation Core (with Canadian Wildlife Federation), when she wrote this: "I aspire to live an eco-conscious life, spend lots of time outdoors, provide service to my communities and inspire others." The Heartwood Fund promises a world she desired to live in, with abundant and diverse habitats that will benefit all of us.

- Joan Vincent and Roland Rehorn are volunteers, monthly supporters and donors to the Heartwood Fund.



Pictured on pages 17-18: Indigo Bunting, Rotary Club of Orillia presents Janet Machan (Board member) and Tanya Clark (staff) with a cheque from proceeds from the annual Rotary Car Auction. Members of our Leaders Circle explored a potential property to protect.



Judith Humphries
 Kathy Hunt
 Shirin Husein, Georgian Bay Printers
 Morris Ilyniak
 Jean Iron
 Pelee Island Winery
 Jack and Maddy's
 Leon Jenkins
 Gail Johnson
 Justin Johnson
 Richard & Wendy Johnston
 Michael & Barbara Jones
 Philip Jones
 Thomas Kaethler
 James Kamstra
 David Kaposi
 Kawartha Dairy
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 Empire Agency Inc
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 Pat Woodford
 Kaye Zoller

Donations were made in memory of:

John Bell
Doris Oxby
Bill Oxby
Carmen Bisson
Holly Burgan
Ron Calderbank
Joseph Callaghan
Rosaleen Crooks
Gay Guthrie
Alex Hutchings
John Jefferies
Mary MacDonald
Jack Marshall
Ronald McKinzey
John Miller
Herta Mulder
Ed Murphy
Samantha Oxby
Betty Pengelly
Ross Phillips
John Pitts & Kathleen Milligan
Angela Rehorn
Ron Reid
Robert Ritchie
Wayne Scanlon
Allan Sopher
Bill Swinimer

We are grateful to work with the following partners:

4 Directions Conservation Consulting Services
Alliance of Canadian Land Trusts
American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts
Birds Canada
Bruce Trail Conservancy
Canada Summer Jobs
Canadian Tire
Carden Field Naturalists
Centre for Land Conservation
Chippewas of Rama First Nation
City of Orillia
City of Kawartha Lakes
Community Foundation of Orillia and Area
Copeland Forest Friends
County of Simcoe
Ducks Unlimited
Environment and Climate Change Canada
Ganaraska Trail Association
Georgian Bay Land Trust
Georgian College
Greenlands Conservation Partnership Program

Haliburton Highlands Land Trust
Huronian Land Conservancy
Invasive Species Action Fund
Kawartha Land Trust
Kawartha Conservation
Kawartha Field Naturalists
Lakehead University
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Natural Heritage Information Centre
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Nature Conservancy of Canada
Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
Ontario Conservation Accelerator
Ontario Field Ornithologists
Ontario Heritage Trust
Ontario Land Trust Alliance
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry
Ontario Nature
Ontario Parks
Orillia Area Community Development Corporation
Ontario Wildlife Foundation
Ontario Woodlot Association
Orillia Naturalists' Club
Orillia Secondary School
Parks Canada

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Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition
Scales Nature Park
Severn Sound Environmental Association
Seventh Fire
Simcoe County Greenbelt Coalition
Tatham Engineering
Transport Canada
Tree Canada
The Government of Canada's Natural Heritage Conservation Program
The Land Between
The MapleCross Foundation
The Miller Group
The Sustainability Network
The Youssef-Warren Foundation, legacy fund
Toronto Ornithological Club
Township of Severn
Wetland Conservation Partnership Program
Wildlands League
Wildlife Habitat Canada
Wildlife Preservation Canada

Pictured on pages 19-20: unveiling of the Cedar Grove Nature Reserve with members of the Orillia Horticultural Society. Participants of the Passport to Nature Kids Storywalk, in partnership with the Orillia Public Library. Unveiling of the Hancock Hermitage Easement. Volunteers Janet Machan and Jane Sloley talked to people at the Orillia Fairgrounds Farmers Market and handed out our Passport to Nature booklets.

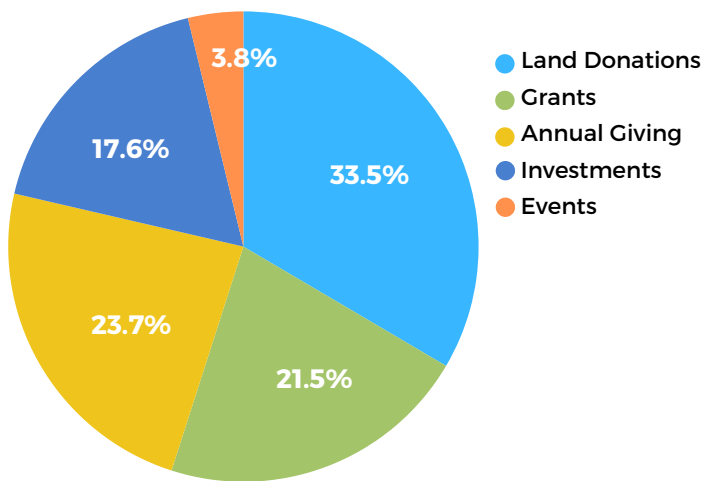


Financial Report

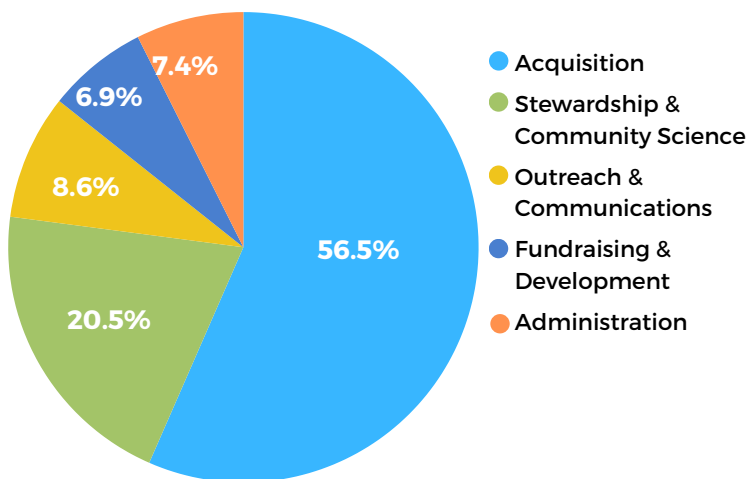
Our 2024 financial results represent a new high-water mark for donations and investment income. This surplus allowed us to increase the Acquisition Reserve by \$168,000, the President's Reserve by \$136,000, the Heartwood Endowment by \$45,000 and the Stewardship Endowment by \$89,000. We were well-positioned this year to increase properties & easements by \$685,000 while keeping expenditures under budget.

Please see the Audited Financial Statements by Hehn Trickey Professional Corporation for the year ending October 31, 2024 on our website.

REVENUE



EXPENSES



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Assets	2024	2023
Current		
Cash and bank	\$368,333	\$162,771
Short-term investments	1,293,168	1,301,556
Accounts receivable	20,231	34,194
Government grants receivable	1,556	91,552
Accrued interest receivable	6,916	7,554
Prepaid expenses	9,975	12,348
	1,468,286	1,609,975
Long-term investments	190,977	-
Endowment assets	1,084,557	906,851
Capital assets (property)	6,930,828	6,254,849
	9,906,541	8,771,675

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current	2024	2023
Accounts payable	\$42,943	\$31,961
Deferred contributions	393,183	388,233
	436,126	420,194

Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$82,514	\$63,421
Invested in capital assets	6,930,828	6,254,849
Internally restricted - acquisition	400,001	232,133
Internally restricted - President's	300,001	163,942
Externally restricted - Corridors	189,372	235,262
Internally restricted - other	1,143,394	1,066,669
Externally restricted - other	424,305	335,205
	9,470,415	8,351,481
	9,906,541	8,771,675

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE

	2024	2023
Revenue		
Land Donations	\$685,000	\$378,000
Grants	439,027	692,769
Annual Giving	485,980	490,348
Investments	359,657	61,413
Events	76,970	55,658
Other	-	17,297
Total Revenue	\$2,046,634	\$1,695,485
Expenses		
Acquisitions	\$910,959	\$841,426
Stewardship & Community Science	330,818	414,788
Outreach & Communications	139,298	112,956
Fundraising & Development	111,725	85,929
Administration	119,900	136,977
Total Expenses	\$1,612,700	\$1,592,076

Pictured on page 22: Gray Treefrog. Barb Ryckman of the Orillia Naturalist; Cub at the Carthew Bay Nature Reserve. The Club are the stewards of this property. Work is underway on our first eco passage, to make it safer for the species who live there and also for drivers along Monck Rd.

What's Ahead



NEW PROTECTED PLACES



WHITNEY WETLAND ECO PASSAGE

Completion of our first Eco-passage to reduce road mortality.



INDIGENOUS PARTNERSHIPS

Continuing to build relationships with Williams' Treaty First Nations rights holders.



LAND PROTECTION CAMPAIGN



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Outreach and advertising campaigns directed to young, old, naturalists and alike.



SCIENCE & MONITORING

Continuing to understand our local landscapes through on the ground initiatives.





Contact Us

Mailing address: Box 704, Orillia, ON L3V 6K7

Office address: 1485 Division Road West, Orillia, ON L3V 0X6

Phone: 705-326-1620 | **Website:** couchichingconserv.ca

Charitable registration number: 13972 5030 RR001

    @couchichingconservancy



Photography by staff, contactors, supporters and volunteers.

Pictured on front: Meghan Edwards completes water monitoring at Dr. Ron Taylor Nature Reserve - brr! Ron Reid, one of the founders of our organization. Madeleine Fournier and Haven Hache listen for frogs. Nashville Warbler. Black Swallowtail.

Pictured on back: Massasauga Rattlesnake. Lake County Probus at Grant's Woods Nature Reserve. Barred Owl camoflague. Volunteers at the Passport to Nature Kids Storywalk event. Gem Kyne installed dots on our office door and windows to make them safer for birds, exploring the Sweetwater Farm Nature Reserve.

